

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DON YOUNG
AT THE
COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
ICEBREAKING REPORT

SEPTEMBER 26, 2006

I WELCOME THE WITNESSES TODAY, AND I
LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING THEIR TESTIMONY
ABOUT THE COAST GUARD'S POLAR ICEBREAKING
FLEET, WHICH IS VITAL TO THE NATIONAL
INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

AS THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR ALL OF ALASKA,
I AM PARTICULARLY AWARE OF ITS IMPORTANCE
TO THE PEOPLE OF MY STATE, NOW AND IN THE
FUTURE.

THE UNITED STATES MUST BE ACTIVE IN THE
ARCTIC REGION TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT ITS
INTERESTS. THIS REQUIRES VESSELS THAT CAN
ENSURE ACCESS AND DO MISSIONS IN ADDITION
TO RESEARCH, LIKE SEARCH AND RESCUE,
NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION,
ENFORCEMENT OF TREATIES, AND NATIONAL
DEFENSE.

THE COAST GUARD'S POLAR ICEBREAKERS ARE THE ONLY U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSET CAPABLE OF THESE MISSIONS. AND THE COAST GUARD IS THE BEST AGENCY TO OPERATE THEM BECAUSE OF THEIR MARITIME EXPERTISE, TRAINING, AND MILITARY DISCIPLINE.

I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DEGENERATION OF THE COAST GUARD'S POLAR ICEBREAKER PROGRAM.

WE MUST ADDRESS THE IMPORTANT POINTS
MADE IN THIS STUDY, AND I STRONGLY URGE MY
COLLEAGES TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM,
INCLUDING REFURBISHING AND ACQUIRING NEW
POLAR ICEBREAKERS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM THE
WITNESSES.

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.